

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04124 180524Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /090 W

-----180937Z 055597 /14

R 180436Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3960

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL DHARAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PFOR EGEN BGEN BA KS

SUBJ: KOREAN LABOR IN BAHRAIN

REF: (A) MANAMA 1019, (B) SEOUL 3613

1. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED A POLICY WHEREBY IT SEEKS TO CONTROL THE EMIGRATION OF KOREAN WORKERS SO AS TO PROTECT THE SUPPLY OF SKILLED WORKERS TO THE DOMESTIC ECONOMY AS WELL AS TO KOREAN COMPANIES OPERATING ABROAD. HOWEVER, FROM ALL INDICATIONS, THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION PRECLUDING KOREANS FORM WORKING ABROAD FOR NON-KOREAN COMPANIES.

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2. THE HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, KIM YONG-SONG, RECENTLY AFFIRMED TO EMBOFF THAT THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT POLICY TO EXCLUDE FOREIGN COMPANIES FROM RECRUITING KOREAN WORKERS FOR OVERSEAS WORK, BUT THE WORKER MUST GET GOVERNMENT PERMISSION WHICH MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING FOR CERTAIN SKILLS FROM TIME TO TIME. KIM SHOULD KNOW; HE GETS A COMMISSION

FOR EACH WORKER HE PLACES IN AN OVERSEAS JOB.

3. SINCE WE ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL OF THE DETAILS OF THE TWO CASES CITED IN PARA 3, REF A, OUR CONCLUSIONS ARE PERFORCE TENTATIVE. IF HYUNDAI HAS A CONTRACT FOR THE ASRY PROJECT, THE LIKELIHOOD EXISTS THAT THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LOATHE TO ALLOW ASRY TO RECRUIT WORKERS IN COMPETITION WITH ONE OF ITS OWN. AS FOR BROWN AND ROOT, WE WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO COMMENT IF WE COULD IDENTIFY THE KOREAN OFFICIALS TO WHOM BROWN AND ROOT MADE THE APPROACH AND WHERE, SINCE GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS SEEMS TO HAVE SOME BEARING ON THIS REGULATIVE MORASS.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CURRENT KOREAN POLICIES ON THIS ISSUE. WE APPRECIATE BEING MADE AWARE OF CASES SUCH AS THOSE IN REF A WHERE, SEEMINGLY, THE KOREANS MAY OCCUPY A NEW SQUARE. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT TO DATE THE KOREANS HAVE, IN FACT, NOT IMPOSED ANY ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN RECRUITMENT OF KOREAN WORKERS FOR WORK OUTSIDE KOREA, ALTHOUGH SOME AMBIGUITY MAY EXIST IN IMPLEMENTATION OF PRESENT REGULATIONS.

SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation History:
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